

Master towards all his servants. the feare of god haveing alwaies before his eyes, Hath ever used and Endeavoured with his Chieffest Care and Dilligence by all meanes possible hee could to provide sufficient for their Cloathing dyett Lodging and all other necessaries and to preserve his said sarvants in health and welfare, Without ever giving to them or any of them any Cruell or unreasonable Correccōn, or ever exacting or expecting more or other service ffrom them or any of them, then what in equity and good Conscience might reasonably bee expected ffrom them, By reason whereof the said Richard hath not onely obtained the Love ffavour and good will of all his Neighbours. Merchants and other worthy and hono<sup>ble</sup> psons of this Province, but also hath kept himselfe his same oppinion estimation & Repute, and all his goods chattells Lands and tenem<sup>ts</sup> safe secure and unteynted, And in noe wise subject to any Lawe for ffellony Murder killing or slaying or other mischeife or Offence abovesaid made and Provided Yet the said William Collins being not ignorant of the p<sup>r</sup>misses, but Envyng the happy estate and condicon of the said Richard, and maliciously intending not onely to deprive him the said Richard of his good name ffame Credit and repute aforesd and of his waies and meanes of liveing as afforesaid and to bring him into the hate disgrace and evill oppinion of all his neighbours Marchants and other worthy and hono<sup>ble</sup> persons of this Province, but also innocently to cause him the said Richard to bee brought into danger of fforfeiting all and singular his Chattells lands and tenements and looseing of his life, the second day of October in the yeare of our Lord god One thousand six hundred seaventy and eight. Att a certaine place commonly called Mount Calvert hundred in Petuxent River aforesaid within the County aforesaid then and there haveing speech and comunication with one William Rought and divers other ffaithfull and Credible persons of this Province, of and concerning him the said Richard, in the presence and hearing of him the said William Rought and other neighbours and ffaithfull and Credible psons of this Province then and there being present and in hearing, Openly and publicquely and with a Loud Voice, these scandalous ffeigned and oprobrious words did ffalcely and maliciously say (Viz) that he the said William Collins Would Sweare, that Richard Marsham the said Richard Marsham the Plaintiffe meaning, beat his man Jenkins (one Jenkin Price meaning late servant to the said Marsham who dyed in his the said Richards service) while he, meaning the said Jenkin Price) was dead in the ffeild, And was brought dead into the house, meaning the ffeild and house of the said Richard, And this hee the said William Collins would Sweare before the Governour and Chancello<sup>r</sup>, And the same William Collins out of the same mallice envy and evill Intention, Afterwards to witt the tenth day of October aforesd att the house of John Smith within the County aforesaid in the p<sup>r</sup>sence and hearing of the same John Smith and divers other neighbours and Credible

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p. 108